

Section 9.4 Policy and Program Recommendations

1. **The Kansas Legislature should adopt legislation requiring all new publicly funded buildings to meet minimum energy efficiency standards, as recommended by the Special Committee on Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment.**

Description

Consistent with and building on the initiatives the Governor's January 2007 Executive Order (07-373),¹ the Kansas Legislature should target energy conservation and efficiency in all new publicly funded structures. As proposed by the Special Committee on Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment, all new publicly funded construction would exceed by 25 percent the standards specified in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2006, provided specific conservation measures are estimated to be cost-effective over the life of the measure. Additionally, this new construction would also be required to use water more efficiently (use at least 20 percent less potable water for indoor and outdoor use than comparable existing buildings).

Although many activities are underway throughout State government to improve efficiency and reduce consumption in existing public buildings, it is important that the State adopt standards to ensure that all new taxpayer-funded buildings incorporate cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation measures.

Recommended Actions

a. Responsible parties

Kansas Legislature.

b. Legislative action

Adopt minimum EE standards for all publicly funded new construction, as described above.

c. Budget requirements

¹ Specifically, Executive Order 07-373 directs the Department of Administration to (1) require energy audits on all facilities being considered as leased space and require landlord to make necessary improvements and (2) collect energy data associated with state-owned and leased space and identify locations using excessive energy. In addition, the Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) at the Kansas Energy Office is directed to: (1) implement cost-effective conservation and efficiency measures in all state-owned buildings by 2010, (2) accelerate efforts to market FCIP to school districts and local governments, and (3) review all state construction projects, both new and remodeling, that exceed \$100,000 for possible inclusion in FCIP, including Regents facilities.

Depending on the monitoring and enforcement provisions of the legislation, some additional funding may be required.

d. Implementation timeline

Initiated up on effective date of enabling legislation.

Implications of Proposal

a. Pros

- i. Promotes energy efficiency in newly constructed Kansas buildings.
- ii. Reduces long-term energy costs in public buildings.
- iii. Reduces energy consumption in Kansas public buildings.
- iv. Saves Kansas taxpayers money through reduced long-term energy costs.
- v. Sets an example for EE improvements in non-public buildings in Kansas.

b. Cons

- i. May require additional funding for State employees to monitor and oversee implementation.
- ii. May require additional time and training for Department of Administration employees to implement new EE standards in their practices.
- iii. May increase the initial, up-front cost of construction.